(vii) Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF)

(viii) Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT)

(b) Disinvestment is being considered and carried out in various PSUs in accordance with the declared policy of the Government. According to the policy, in generality of cases, Government will bring down its equity to 26% or below in all non-strategic PSUs. The strategic PSUs are those in the areas of arms and ammunitions; allied items of defence equipment, defence aircrafts and warships; atomic energy (except in the areas related to the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation and radio isotopes to agriculture medicine and non-strategic industries) and railway transport. This policy covers all Central PSUs.

(c) and (d) Following the acceptance of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission, the process of disinvestment in these PSUs except RCF and FACT has been taken up. It is not possible to indicate any time schedule for completion of the process.

Rejection of Sterlite Bid

2895. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sterlite has submitted a letter of Expression of Interest for bidding the stakes of Hindustan Zinc and Hindustan Copper;

(b) if so, whether this bid has been disqualified under the new guidelines evolved by the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment;

(c) whether the reasons attributed for the rejection of the Sterlite bid is an earlier indiction by the market regulator SEBI; and

(d) if so, whether the new guidelines were in force when the Sterlite company clinched the BALCO deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) In terms of the "Guidelines for qualification of Bidders seeking to acquire stakes in Public Sector Enterprises through the process of disinvestment" issued on 13-7-2001, show-cause notices have been served

on Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. with reference to its "Expressions of Interest". Replies of Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. to these show-cause notices have been received and these are being examined.

(c) The show-cause notice was issued to Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. because the company was indicted by SEBI *vide* order dated 19.4.2001.

(d) No, Sir.

Increase in Vector-borne Diseases

2896. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the vector-borne diseases are on the increase in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent the spread of these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (b) No, Sir. The data maintained by the Directorate of National Anti-malaria Programme (NAMP) show that there is a decline in number of cases of vector-borne diseases. Following strategies are being adopted to prevent the spread of Malaria and other vector-borne diseases:

- Early case detection and prompt treatment.
- Selective Vector Control.
- Promotion of personal protection methods.
- Early detection and containment of epidemics.
- Information, Education and Communication towards personal prevention and community participation.
- Institutional and Management Capacity Building, Trained Manpower Development and efficient Management Information System (MIS).
- Issuance of advance warning to States/UTs suggesting all the preventive
  and control measures.